V64/4/986

We The People

VETERANS DAY Ceremonies

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

...A Grateful Nation Remembers...

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— NOTES —

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VETERANS DAY GUIDE

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Veterans Day recognizes the important contributions of the millions of our citizens whose military service had a profound effect on history. This booklet will assist those planning an appropriate ceremony. Through the years, Veterans Day programs have provided millions with a greater appreciation of this significant part of our national heritage.

Veterans Day also affords educators a unique opportunity for their schools to become the focal point of a truly meaningful experience both for the students and the community.

The committee welcomes your support and involvement in Veterans Day and if we can assist in the planning and execution of your observance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Veterans Day National Committee

VETERANS DAY—HOW IT WAS NAMED

"A Soldier Known But to God"

In 1921, an American soldier—his name "known but to God"—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington. The Arlington National Cemetery burial site of this unknown World War I soldier became the personification of dignity and reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an "unknown soldier" was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action.

If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "The War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But shortly after the holiday was proclaimed, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered the dream. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred and six thousand died. The families and friends of these dead longed for a way to honor their memory.

"To Honor Veterans of All Wars"

An answer to the dilemma of how to pay tribute to those who had served in this latest, great war came in a proposal made by Representative Edwin K. Rees of Kansas: Change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and make this an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars.

President Eisenhower, in 1954, signed the bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and he called for Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

On May 30, 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought to Arlington Cemetery from overseas and interred in the plaza beside their Comrade of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in Korea. A law passed in 1973 provided for the interment of an unknown American who lost his life in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era. For several years no qualifying remains were discovered so a memorial plaque was placed in the Amphitheater's Memorial Display Room. On Memorial Day 1984, however, the Unknown Serviceman from that conflict was placed "In Honored Glory" alongside his fellow countrymen.

To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3d United States Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

"Date Too Significant to Change"

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens. Congress, therefore, enacted legislation (Public Law 94-97) which returned the observance of this special day to its traditional date beginning in 1978.

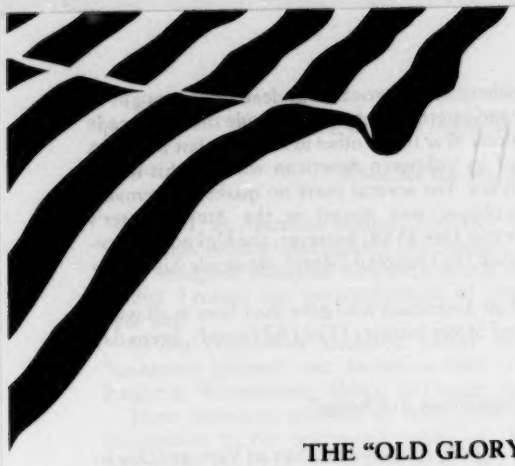
"Once Belonged to Robert E. Lee"

Focal point for ceremonies conducted by the Veterans Day National Committee continues to be the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The site, established in 1864 and now operated by the Department of Defense, lies on property that once belonged to General Robert E. Lee.

At 11 a.m. on Veterans Day a combined color guard representing all military services honors the Unknown Soldier by executing "Present Arms" at the Tomb. The Nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a Presidential wreath. The bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, which includes a brief address, takes place at the Amphitheater.

Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere in the Nation are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the group has an executive committee which includes representatives of fifteen national veterans organizations chartered by Congress. The remaining nine members represent other national veterans service associations.

The Governor of each State and the U.S. Territories appoints a Veterans Day chairperson who, in cooperation with the National Committee, plans, arranges and promotes appropriate ceremonies within his or her jurisdiction.



THE "OLD GLORY" STORY

To veterans throughout American history, the Stars and Stripes has served as a symbol of their service, and as a continuing testimony that the service was worthwhile.

Since many flags of early America contained stripes in their design and several others had star devices, there are varying accounts of when and where the first Stars and Stripes was flown. Flag history experts agree, however, that the first Stars and Stripes flag to have the general form we recognize today did not appear until the summer of 1777, when the Continental Congress formally resolved "That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field representing a new constellation."

Interestingly, the Congress did not specify the arrangement or shape of the stars, the direction of the stripes, or the relative size of the various components. Consequently, military units and civilian public alike flew a confusing array of local, state and home-made interpretations of the congressional flag description.

It was not until 1912 that the flag was finally assured a uniform appearance, when President Taft signed an executive order prescribing the relative size, shape and positioning of the flag's components.

A subject of almost as much debate as the shape and design of the flag has been the question of how and when to display the Stars and Stripes.

Since 1942, when a law was first enacted to govern actual display of the flag, the guiding statement has been that the flag should be flown on "days when weather permits." The generally accepted interpretation was that the colors could be shown only between sunrise and sundown, and, even then, not during inclement weather.

Growing sentiment that "Old Glory" should be kept flying irrespective of darkness and foul weather culminated in 1976, when President Ford signed legislation providing that: "When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness." The new law also permits the Stars and Stripes to remain flying through inclement weather when a flag of all-weather materials is used.

In addition to its historical significance for permitting the national colors to remain aloft indefinitely for patriotic effect, the 1976 legislation may be remembered for giving life to "Old Glory." The new flag code contains the provision that: "The flag represents a loving country and is itself considered a living thing."

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RESPECT YOUR FLAG

Important Things to Remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag on all days but especially on national and State holidays and other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. On Memorial Day, the U.S. flag should be half-staffed until noon.

The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, during school days in or near every schoolhouse, and in or near every polling place on election days.

Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.

Things Not to Do

Never in any way should any disrespect be shown the U.S. flag.

The U.S. flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor.

The U.S. flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of dire distress.

The U.S. flag should never touch anything beneath it—ground, floor, water or merchandise.

The U.S. flag should never be carried horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free—never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below.

The U.S. flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in a manner which will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.

Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling.

Never place anything on the U.S. flag. The U.S. flag should never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

Never use the U.S. flag for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

When the U.S. flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Display the Flag Daily, Especially on Holidays

NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1
INAUGURATION DAY, January 20
LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, February 12
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, 3rd Monday in February
EASTER SUNDAY (variable)
MOTHER'S DAY, second Sunday in May
ARMED FORCES DAY, third Saturday in May
MEMORIAL DAY, last Monday in May (half-staff until noon)
FLAG DAY, June 14
INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4
LABOR DAY, first Monday in September
CONSTITUTION DAY, September 17
COLUMBUS DAY, 2nd Monday in October
NAVY DAY, October 27
VETERANS DAY, November 11
THANKSGIVING DAY, fourth Thursday in November
CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25
Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States.
BIRTHDAY OF STATES (dates of admission)
STATE HOLIDAYS
ALL ELECTION DAYS

Certain dates subject to change by Federal legislation

FLY YOUR FLAG REGULARLY . . . A

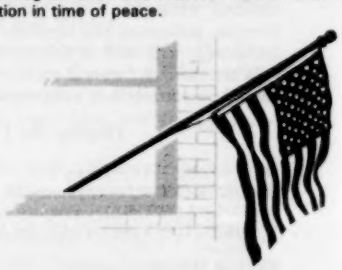
The U. S. flag when carried in a procession with another or other flags, should be either on the marching right (the flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. Never display the U. S. flag from a float except from a staff, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed.

When other flags are flown from the same halyard, the U. S. flag should always be at the peak. When other flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the U. S. flag should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag may fly above or to the right of the U. S. flag (except flags of other nations; see below).

The U. S. flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the U.S. flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

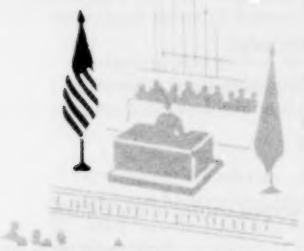
The U. S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



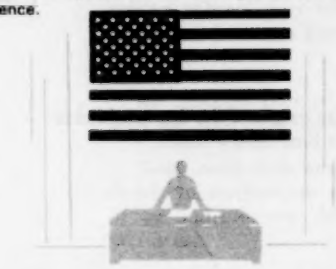
When the U. S. flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building to a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

D CORRECTLY . . . HERE'S HOW!

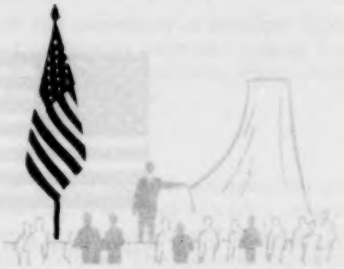
When the U. S. flag is displayed other than rom a staff, it should be displayed flat, or o suspended that its folds fall free. When isplayed over a street, place the union so faces north or east, depending upon the irection of the street.



When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.



If displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the U. S. flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union of the flag in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag.

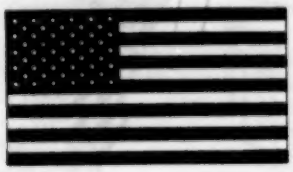


The U. S. flag should form a distinctive feature at the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument

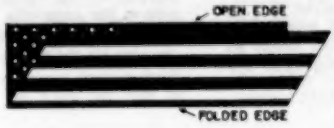
When the U. S. flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground. The flag, when flown at half staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to the half staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in parade, all persons should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. A man should remove his hat and hold it with the right hand over the heart. Men without hats, and women salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

CORRECT METHOD OF FOLDING THE UNITED STATES FLAG



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.

(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.

(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape of a cocked hat with only the blue field visible.

SUGGESTED COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Veterans Day activities afford the schools and community an excellent opportunity to develop and produce a variety of cooperative programs ranging from modest to full involvement. Participation by the various patriotic organizations can play a vital role in the projects suggested in this guide.

1. Indoor Ceremony

Depending on the facilities available, an indoor assembly program can provide a most meaningful tribute to Veterans Day. The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community at large. The following ceremony outline with prepared Veterans Day remarks represents a typical one-hour program.

Prelude and Posting of Colors — As the audience enters to be seated, a school or community musical organization may offer several appropriate selections. A procession and posting of colors is always a stirring event. Local veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of banners and flags.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and National Anthem — The program chairman, school principal or student body president should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

Introductory Remarks — The tone for the program may be set by appropriate introductory remarks lasting several minutes. The following remarks may be used or, if desired, the President's Veterans Day Proclamation may be incorporated.

> Today there is, and perhaps there always will be, conflict in the world. But the United States fortunately enjoys peace and freedom as she enters her third century.
>
> Like other things of great value, this security did not come cheaply. Part of the cost has already been paid by Americans who answered the call to military duty when their country needed them. They served in nine wars from the Revolution to Vietnam, earning the special distinction "veteran."
>
> But another part of freedom's cost must continue to be paid long after the guns have been silenced. This debt is owed America's veterans.
>
> Some need their country's help, even as their country once needed theirs, to readjust, to recover from wounds or to overcome hardships of age and infirmity. Most need and ask nothing in repayment of their sacrifices.
>
> Let us continue to help those veterans in need with the greatest possible compassion and efficiency. For the rest, since they ask no special thanks, we can best pay tribute to them this day by recognizing what they have achieved, and in joining them in their resolve to keep America strong and free.

Special Musical Selection — A band or choral group should offer one of the more impressive patriotic selections available. This affords an opportunity for the musical organization to exhibit its talents in a most stirring and dramatic manner.

Introduction of Guests — Dignitaries selected as special guests may include local government officials, school alumni with distinguished military service, veterans from the community who represent different periods of service and faculty members who are veterans.

Principal Speaker — Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program.

Student Essay or Reading — In school programs, student body participation may be underscored by inclusion in the program of various presentations by individual pupils. Selected essays from school-wide competition may be offered by the student-author. A reading of a well-known patriotic address by an American President or famous military hero by a talented student can be effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which could add greatly to your program.

Moment of Silence — Taps — While Veterans Day is typically a tribute to America's living veterans, it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for their country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded "cease firing" and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by an instrumental or vocal rendition of "Taps."

Closing — Accompanied by appropriate music, assembled colors should be retired, following which the audience may file out.

2. Flag Raising Ceremony

Weather permitting, outdoor flag raising ceremonies permit group participation in an event which by its routine usually escapes attention. Such a ceremony, although brief, should include the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. A special guest may be invited to participate.

3. Musical Programs

Veterans Day offers an excellent opportunity for school or community musical organizations to display their talents. A midday concert at the school or at a central location in the community can be especially dedicated to Veterans Day. An innovative program might include selections known to have been popular during America's wars.

4. Poster Contest

The creative talents of students can be encouraged through participation in a school-wide Veterans Day poster contest. Winners should be appropriately recognized and awarded certificates. Local newspapers should be invited to photograph the winning entries.

5. School Newspaper Activity

Feature stories on Veterans Day can be developed by the staffs of school publications. Publish a roster of faculty members who are veterans. Describe other Veterans Day activities in individual classrooms.

6. Library Activities

School or community libraries can prepare lists of recommended reading material suitable for Veterans Day. An appropriate display of book jackets or a special shelf containing selected publications can be used to call attention to the project.

7. Football Games

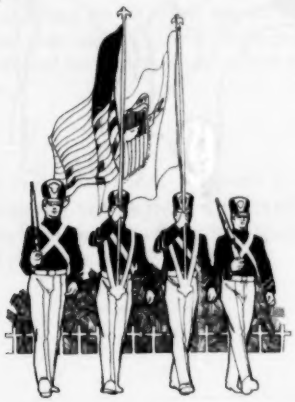
Veterans Day is observed at the time of the year when schools and clubs are engaged in football competition. The presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem may be keyed to Veterans Day by an appropriate public address announcement. Half-time presentations by school bands also afford an ideal opportunity to offer special patriotic selections and marching routines. Card section displays are another popular device that may be used to visually recognize Veterans Day.

8. School Cafeteria Activities

Patriotic decorations in school dining areas would add a colorful tribute to Veterans Day. Create special menu items such as decorated cupcakes or cookies.

9. Historical Groups

Veterans Day programs may be given added importance in your school or community through appropriate cooperation with local historical organizations. In many areas, these patriotic groups have organized period uniformed flag bearers, fife and drum corps and other marching and musical units. There are many ways these colorful performers may be a part of a dignified program that observes this special day.



10. Additional Ideas

The suggestions in this booklet do not, of course, cover all the possible commemorative activities Veterans Day inspires. Encouraging the active imaginations of those on your program committee will help assure a meaningful salute to the men and women who answered their country's call to service and sacrifice.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Smaller school units can also develop meaningful programs which can personally involve every student. Maturity of the group should be considered when planning projects associated with the observance of Veterans Day. Activities which are entertaining as well as instructive are sure to attract the interest of younger children. Students in middle and secondary schools should be encouraged to engage in research and writing projects particularly in association with civics and history courses.

1. Essays

Themes and compositions on a variety of subjects can be included in Veterans Day writing assignments. First person accounts of military service of a relative or friend can help develop narrative skills. Assign students to investigate the various veterans services offered by government agencies in their community. Write about veterans who are receiving educational benefits from the Veterans Administration. Describe various veterans memorials which may be located nearby.

2. Art Projects

The colorful and varied uniforms worn by members of the Armed Forces throughout our history offer students of all ages ideal subjects to draw and paint. The official emblems and seals of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard can be portrayed by students in a variety of methods, such as mosaics, applique, decoupage as well as the traditional painting and drawing approaches.

3. Costume Pageant

Elementary school children enjoy opportunities to create and exhibit costume items. Making colored construction paper hats representing various military eras is a modest and effective way of interesting pupils in Veterans Day subjects. A more ambitious project might include re-creating uniforms worn by service personnel through the years.

4. Student's Family Tree

Ask each student to research and list all of his known relatives who served in the Armed Forces. Since more than half the United States population is comprised of veterans, their dependents and survivors, each student should be able to contribute something.

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America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!

America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.

—Katharine Lee Bates